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CD NO.

COUNTRY: Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 16 MAY 1949

SUBJECT: Communist Plans for Agitation of Farm Workers

NO. OF PAGES 1 25X1A2g

25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO

25X1A6

1. The Coastal Regional Committee of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE) has during the last few weeks intensified its campaign of agitation among the farm workers in that area. Plans for further activity along this line have been formulated and set forth in a series of resolutions which were to be submitted to the Central Committee in Quito. These resolutions were as follows:
 - a. Organization of the farm workers of Ecuador should be encouraged.
 - b. The cells in Milagro, Naranjal, Daule, Manabi, and Esmeraldas should hold special meetings to study how to develop unity among the farmers and how to organize them into an effective and articulate group.
 - c. At the next conference of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Ecuador, to be held in Cuenca, farm land reforms and farm labor problems should be discussed at length.
 - d. A Congress of Campesinos (farmers) should be convened during 1949 as no such meeting has been held since 1946.
2. At a secret Communist meeting in Guayaquil on 9 April 1949, Neptali Pacheco Leon, foremost Communist agrarian agitator in Ecuador, told those present that all who were able to do so should join in the campaign to agitate and organize the "masas campesinas". Pacheco spoke of his efforts since 1922 to organize the farm workers and of how much the Party had done in comparison to the little accomplished along this line by other political parties. He requested full cooperation of urban Communists in future agrarian activities and concluded by saying that the Party should ask for the abolition of the law which permits the Minister of Defense to conscript soldiers to perform farm duties.

Document No. 5
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DIA REG. 77/1783 By: 019

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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